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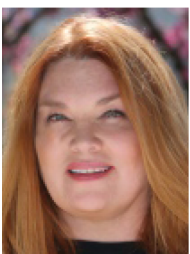
Weekly Newscasts Lesson Plan | June 20, 2016

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- to provide an authentic learning resource for both learners and instructors

Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys



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*Voice of Learning
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Learning English with CBC is a joint project with CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton, and the Government of Alberta.

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NEWSCAST 1

TWO-YEAR-OLD BOY SNATCHED BY ALLIGATOR FOUND



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/1.3635778>

LANGUAGE LEVEL: Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) **4/5** or equivalent

WARM UP QUESTION

Did you hear about the little boy that was standing near the edge of the water at a resort in Walt Disney World (see photo above) when all of a sudden an alligator took him?

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY

Review the vocabulary below before listening to the audio clip.

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
snatched	grabbed; taken
intact	not damaged in any way; complete; whole
lagoon	an area of water separated from the sea
traces of something	signs; clues; marks
wading	walking through water; standing in water
shallow water	water that is not deep
drowned	die by suffocating in water or inhaling water
warning	a statement or sign that indicates possible danger
operations	business

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio Clip 0:00)

Listen to the newscast once for overall comprehension.

Listen to the newscast again. This time indicate the order of statements made in the story. The first one is done for you.

(See answer key)

Imagine that you are sending a card to the family to express your condolences. Condolences are words of sympathy, especially when someone has died. Write what you would say in a card below.

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What do you think of this story?

NEWSCAST 2

WALMART ANNOUNCES IT WILL NO LONGER ACCEPT VISA CARDS



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/1.3638082>

LANGUAGE LEVEL: Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) **4/5** or equivalent

WARM UP QUESTIONS

Do you shop at Walmart? Did you hear that Walmart is going to stop accepting Visa cards? Did you hear why? Do you think this is a good idea? Why or why not?

VOCABULARY

Look at the vocabulary below. Circle the words you do not understand.

high fees transactions retailers customers

charity the lowest rate mandate merchants

higher than unacceptable The Retail Council of Canada

Look up the definitions if needed for the words you do not understand.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio clip 0:00)

Listen to the newscast once for overall comprehension.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio clip 0:00)

Listen to the script again. Follow along with the script then answer the questions below.

SCRIPT

Walmart says that it will no longer accept Visa cards due to **high fees** for **transactions** beginning in July.

All credit cards charge fees to **retailers**, which generally are between one per cent and 2.5 per cent of the cost **customers** spend.

Walmart told CBC, "We believe Visa's fees should be lower for everyone, whether they are a large retailer, small retailer, or a **charity**."

Visa says it already gives Walmart one of **the lowest rates** of any retailer in Canada.

The Retail Council of Canada says high credit card fees are **unacceptable** to **retailers**. The retail council, which represents **retailers** including Walmart, is calling on the federal government to **mandate** lower fees for all **merchants**.

Canadian fees are five times **higher than** those in Europe and three times **higher than** fees in Australia.

QUESTIONS

1. Why has Walmart decided to stop accepting Visa cards in Canada?
2. When will Visa cards no longer be accepted?
3. How much do retailers typically pay when a customer uses a credit card?
4. What does Visa say it gives Walmart?
5. What is the Retail Council of Canada calling on the federal government to do?
6. How much higher are Canadian fees compared to Europe?

(See answer key)

NEWSCAST 3

A LONG WAIT FOR A UNIQUE GRADUATION GIFT



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/1.3637105>

LANGUAGE LEVEL: Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) **4/5** or equivalent

WARM UP QUESTIONS

Did you receive a gift from your parents or other family members when you graduated from high school?

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Review the references made in the newscast before listening to the story.



Parliament Hill



The Peace Tower



Scouts Canada

Ottawa's Parliament Hill	Parliament Hill, located in Ottawa, Canada is the home of the Parliament of Canada and where Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau and his family currently live.
The Peace Tower flag	The Canadian flag that flies above the Peace Tower located at Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Canada.
Scouts Canada	A Canadian association that provides programs for youth from the ages 5 to 26 to teach outdoor and leadership skills.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio clip 0:00)

Listen to the newscast. While you listen take notes below so you can tell the story. You may need to listen more than once.

SPEAKING ACTIVITY 1

Try to tell the story in your own words. Use the questions below to assist you.

- How long did Bruce Schollie wait for his son's graduation gift to arrive?
- What was the gift?
- Where did the gift come from?
- In what year did he request the gift?
- By 2016, what happened?
- Why is the gift meaningful to both Bruce and his son?
- What does his son think of the gift?
- How long is the wait list for a Peace Tower flag now?

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio clip 0:00)

Listen again to the news story. Follow along with the script.

Bruce Schollie waited more than a decade for his son's graduation gift to arrive.

Eleven years ago, Schollie requested one of the enormous Canadian flags that flies on Ottawa's Parliament Hill.

All of the flags except the largest one are changed out weekly and mailed to Canadians who have registered on the waiting list, free of charge.

The Peace Tower flag is nearly three times bigger than all the others. Though it's replaced every weekday, it has the longest waiting list. That's the one Schollie requested.

When Schollie was informed in 2005 that the waitlist had grown to 11 years, he wasn't discouraged. He told CBC that he thought it would be a great graduation gift for his son. By 2016 he had forgotten about it. Then to his surprise, he received the flag.

A Canadian flag might not seem like an obvious choice of graduation gift, but Schollie said it holds special meaning for him and his son.

"We've been involved in scouting since Evan was five, and part of scouting is to learn about the value of citizenship, and to learn about the proper handling of a flag, and to give community service," said Schollie.

"I thought this just fit so nicely with the scouting ethic and the values I'm trying to instill in my son." Evan seems to think so too.

"It's an amazing gift. I'm so glad to own it," he said.

Evan doesn't have any immediate plans to fly it, and he said it's too big to fit on his bedroom wall. For the moment, the flag lies carefully folded in his home.

"It'll always be special to me, so I'm just going to keep it safe for now."

While 11 years is a long time to wait, the approximate wait time for a Peace Tower flag today is 59 years.

CONCLUSION

What do you think of this story?

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 1
TWO-YEAR-OLD BOY SNATCHED BY ALLIGATOR FOUND

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio Clip 0:00)

6	2	8	3
There were no signs warning of alligators.	The boy's body was found intact near where he was snatched.	Disney is doing everything they can to assist investigators.	Wildlife officials caught and killed five alligators from the lagoon.
4	7	1	5
The boy had been wading in the shallow water at the edge of the lake.	Disney has never had anything like this happen in 45 years of operations.	The boy who was snatched by an alligator was found.	The alligator pulled the boy into the water and drowned him.

LANGUAGE FOCUS: EXPRESSING SYMPATHY

When a death in the family occurs, it is difficult to know what to say. If English is not your first language, it is even more difficult to know what to say. Often people will send cards to the family to express their sympathy.

Below are some expressions that can be used to express sympathy:

EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY	DEFINITION
<i>I'm so sorry for your loss.</i> <i>We are saddened to hear of your sudden loss.</i>	A short and simple expression that is commonly used to express empathy.
<i>You are in my thoughts.</i> <i>I'm thinking of you.</i>	This lets the person or the family know that they are not alone and lets them know that you are thinking of them.
<i>I cannot imagine the pain you and your family are feeling during this difficult time.</i>	This acknowledges the pain and grief that the bereaved are feeling and can be consoling.
<i>Please accept my sincere condolences.</i> <i>Please accept our heartfelt condolences.</i>	A short and simple expression that is commonly used to express empathy.
<i>I/We would like to express my sincere condolences on the death of (name).</i>	A short and simple expression that is commonly used to express empathy for the loss of the specific person.
<i>You are in my thoughts and prayers.</i> <i>Your family is....</i>	This lets the family know that you are thinking of them and has a religious context.
<i>May the memories of the moments you shared bring you some comfort during this difficult time.</i>	This offers acknowledgement of the relationship shared between the person that passed away and the bereaved and may be consoling.
<i>Our hearts are with you in this time of sorrow.</i>	A short and simple expression that is commonly used to express empathy.

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 2

WALMART ANNOUNCES IT WILL NO LONGER ACCEPT VISA CARDS

QUESTIONS

1. Why has Walmart decided to stop accepting Visa cards in Canada?
High fees / Walmart says that it will no longer accept Visa cards due to high fees
2. When will Visa cards no longer be accepted?
As of July
3. How much do retailers typically pay when a customer uses a credit card?
1.0 - 2.5% of the cost of the items the customer buys
4. What does Visa say it gives Walmart?
Visa says it already gives Walmart one of the lowest rates of any retailer in Canada.
5. What is the Retail Council of Canada calling on the federal government to do?
The retail council, which represents retailers including Walmart, is calling on the federal government to mandate lower fees for all merchants.
6. How much higher are Canadian fees compared to Europe?
5 times higher / Canadian fees are five times higher than those in Europe

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 3

A LONG WAIT FOR A UNIQUE GRADUATION GIFT

SPEAKING ACTIVITY 1

- How long did Bruce Schollie wait for his son's graduation gift to arrive?
More than a decade / More than 10 years / 11 years
- What was the gift?
A Canadian flag
- Where did the gift come from?
The Peace Tower / The Peace Tower on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Canada
- In what year did he request the gift?
2005
- By 2016, what happened?
He forgot about the flag until one day it arrived in the mail
- Why is the gift meaningful to both Bruce and his son?
It represents the scouting ethic and the values (value of citizenship, proper handling of a flag, and to give community service)
- What does his son think of the gift?
He thinks it's an amazing gift / He loves it
- How long is the wait list for a Peace Tower flag now?
59 years

TRANSCRIPTS OF WEEKLY NEWSCASTS

	WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
INTRODUCTION	Hi. This is Carolyn Dunn. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of June 20th.	0:00
NEWSCAST 1 TWO-YEAR-OLD BOY SNATCHED BY ALLIGATOR FOUND Source: http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/toddler-body-found-alligator-attack-florida-1.3635778 CLB: 4/5	<p>The body of a two-year-old boy who was snatched by an alligator at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, was found, according to Sheriff Jerry Demings.</p> <p>The boy's body was found intact near where he was snatched, said Demings.</p> <p>Wildlife officials caught and killed five alligators from the lagoon to examine them for traces of the boy.</p> <p>The boy had been wading in the shallow water at the edge of the lake at their resort located at Walt Disney World as his parents sat nearby. The alligator pulled the boy into the water and drowned him, said Demings.</p> <p>There were signs that said "No Swimming" where the boy was attacked, but there were no signs warning of alligators. Demings said Disney has never had anything like this happen in 45 years of operations.</p> <p>Disney said, "Our thoughts are with the family. We are helping the family and doing everything we can to assist investigators."</p>	0:00
NEWSCAST 2 WALMART ANNOUNCES IT WILL NO LONGER ACCEPT VISA CARDS Source: http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/walmart-visa-1.3638082 CLB: 4/5	<p>Walmart says that it will no longer accept Visa cards due to high fees for transactions beginning in July.</p> <p>All credit cards charge fees to retailers, which generally are between one per cent and 2.5 per cent of the cost customers spend.</p> <p>Walmart told CBC, "We believe Visa's fees should be lower for everyone, whether they are a large retailer, small retailer or a charity."</p> <p>Visa says it already gives Walmart one of the lowest rates of any retailer in Canada.</p> <p>The Retail Council of Canada says high credit card fees are unacceptable to retailers. The retail council, which represents retailers including Walmart, is calling on the federal government to mandate lower fees for all merchants.</p> <p>Canadian fees are five times higher than those in Europe and three times higher than fees in Australia.</p>	0:00

<p>NEWSCAST 3</p> <p>A LONG WAIT FOR A UNIQUE GRADUATION GIFT</p> <p>Source: http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/programs/homestretch/canadian-flag-parliament-hill-schollie-1.3637105</p> <p>CLB: 4/5</p>	<p>Bruce Schollie waited more than a decade for his son's graduation gift to arrive.</p> <p>Eleven years ago, Schollie requested one of the enormous Canadian flags that flies on Ottawa's Parliament Hill.</p> <p>All of the flags except the largest one are changed out weekly and mailed to Canadians who have registered on the waiting list, free of charge.</p> <p>The Peace Tower flag is nearly three times bigger than all the others. Though it's replaced every weekday, it has the longest waiting list. That's the one Schollie requested.</p> <p>When Schollie was informed in 2005 that the waitlist had grown to 11 years, he wasn't discouraged. He told CBC that he thought it would be a great graduation gift for his son. By 2016 he had forgotten about it. Then to his surprise, he received the flag.</p> <p>A Canadian flag might not seem like an obvious choice of graduation gift, but Schollie said it holds special meaning for him and his son.</p> <p>"We've been involved in scouting since Evan was five, and part of scouting is to learn about the value of citizenship, and to learn about the proper handling of a flag, and to give community service," said Schollie.</p> <p>"I thought this just fit so nicely with the scouting ethic and the values I'm trying to instill in my son." Evan seems to think so too. "It's an amazing gift. I'm so glad to own it," he said.</p> <p>Evan doesn't have any immediate plans to fly it, and he said it's too big to fit on his bedroom wall. For the moment, the flag lies carefully folded in his home.</p> <p>"It'll always be special to me, so I'm just going to keep it safe for now."</p> <p>While 11 years is a long time to wait, the approximate wait time for a Peace Tower flag today is 59 years.</p>	<p>0:00</p>
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Thank you for using Learning English with CBC. If you have any questions or comments, please email Deidre Lake at info@communication4Integration.ca